



Fact Sheet

Proposed Interim Cleanup Action

Fort Lewis Evergreen Infiltration Range

Proposed Action Plan for Cleanup of Lead Contamination

The Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) proposes to approve an interim cleanup action at the Evergreen Infiltration Range in Fort Lewis, Washington.

Ecology invites the public to read and comment on this proposed interim cleanup action plan and SEPA Determination of Non-Significance (see page 2, Environmental Review). After reviewing public comment, Ecology will make a final decision on this proposed interim cleanup action.

The *Interim Cleanup Action Plan, Evergreen Infiltration Range* describes proposed cleanup actions at the Evergreen Infiltration Range to meet state corrective action requirements under the Hazardous Waste Management Act, RCW 70.105 (HWMA) and the facility's existing interim status under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA).

Public Comment Period October 1 – November 1

The Interim Cleanup Action Plan and Ecology's SEPA Determination of Non-Significance (DNS) are available 10 am to 6 pm at:

Grand Staff Library
Building 2109, Pendleton Avenue
Fort Lewis, Washington
Phone: (253) 967-5889

Or by appointment, Monday through Friday 9 am to 4:30 pm at:

Department of Ecology
Southwest Regional Office
300 Desmond Drive
Lacey, Washington
Phone: (360) 407-6365

To receive a copy of Ecology's SEPA Determination of Non-Significance (DNS) contact Leon Wilhelm at (360) 407-6362 or leow461@ecy.wa.gov

Comments must be postmarked or received by close of business Monday, November 1. Personally deliver comments to the Ecology address shown above.

Send your comments to:

Leon Wilhelm
Hazardous Waste & Toxics Reduction
Department of Ecology, PO Box 47775
Olympia, WA 98504-7775
Email Address: leow461@ecy.wa.gov

Overview

Fort Lewis, an active 86,000 acre U.S. Army base, is 11 miles south of Tacoma. Camp Lewis was created during World War I for infantry training, field maneuvers, and weapons training as well as a staging area for military operations. Camp Lewis became Fort Lewis in 1926.

The Evergreen Infiltration Range is south of I-5, adjacent to Evergreen Avenue (Figure 1). This range, no longer used, included fixed-position machine guns to provide live fire over maneuvering soldiers to simulate combat situations.

High concentrations of lead, including lead from bullet slugs and fragments, were found in the soil at the Evergreen Infiltration Range. These lead levels are higher than allowed under the Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA).

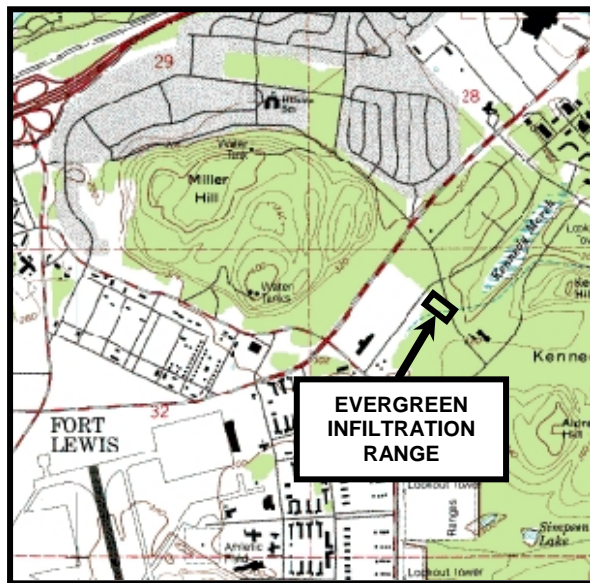


Figure 1. Evergreen Infiltration Range

The Evergreen Infiltration Range is not located near base housing so the proposed soil cleanup activities will not affect base residents.

All hazardous substance investigations and cleanups at Fort Lewis which are located outside designated Superfund areas are conducted under Model Toxics Control Act Agreed Order No. DE 00HWTRSR-1122. The agreed order became

effective in February 2001. The proposed interim cleanup action was developed and

conducted with Ecology oversight as required by the Agreed Order.

Ecology's procedures for reaching a final decision

The public is invited to read and comment on this proposed interim cleanup action. Ecology considers all public comments before making final decisions.

The public review process regulatory requirements under the Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA) are found in Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 173-340-600.

Responding to comments and testimony

Ecology will consider and respond to written comments submitted by the public.

Final decision

After considering the comments Ecology will make a final decision or make a new tentative decision on this proposed interim cleanup action. Ecology will subsequently approve the proposed interim cleanup action, modified as necessary by public comment.

Substantial changes to the proposed interim cleanup actions will require an additional public comment period under MTCA

Effective date of decision

The effective date of Ecology's decision will be the date on Ecology's letter approving the proposed interim cleanup action.

Environmental Review

The Department of Ecology is the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) lead agency for corrective action decisions at Fort Lewis.

After evaluating relevant information, Ecology determined that this proposed interim cleanup action will not have a significant adverse environmental impact and has thus issued a determination of non-significance (DNS). The DNS and SEPA checklist are included with the interim cleanup action plan issued for public comment.

For more information, contact Leon Wilhelm (Ecology), at (360) 407-6362.

History And Past Releases Of Hazardous Substances

The Evergreen Infiltration Range was a night infiltration course used as part of basic training. The range, known historically as Range 49, is about 600 feet long and 300 feet wide. Four machine guns provided live fire into a hill (berm) about 330 feet long by 120 feet wide and 25 feet

high. Soldiers learned to maneuver through barbed wire and other obstacles under this live fire to simulate combat. This range was used from the early 1950s to the early 1970s. The range closed when basic training was no longer a function of Fort Lewis.

Fort Lewis conducted a site investigation in late 2003, under their agreed order. This study shows that lead concentrations above acceptable levels are found in most of the hill (berm) and some adjacent areas.

Soil lead levels above the Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA) Level A soil cleanup level (250 mg/kg) for unrestricted land use are unacceptable.

The highest concentrations found range up to 62,500 mg/kg. These high levels are located at the middle of the impact zone, which extends across the front of the berm (hill).

Sample results from test pits indicate that lead concentrations exceeding the MTCA cleanup level extend more than two feet below the surface. Lead bullet slugs and fragments were found in the impact zone.

Results of a Toxicity Characteristic Leaching Procedure (TCLP) test of five samples from berm soils, including soils with bullet fragments, show this soil will be regulated as hazardous waste once the soil is removed.

Lead concentrations over the MTCA cleanup level were also found along the berm edge and the back of the berm down to one foot below the surface.

Proposed Interim Cleanup action

This proposed interim cleanup action will dig out 4500 cubic yards of contaminated soils with lead concentrations greater than 250 mg/kg (MTCA cleanup level).

Bullet fragments will be removed from the dug out soils. These soils will be treated so they will pass TCLP testing and will not be considered hazardous waste. The clean, treated dug out soils will then be placed on active training ranges at Fort Lewis.

What Happens Next

After considering the comments received, Ecology will make a final decision on the proposed interim cleanup action, changed as necessary by public comment.

Department of Ecology
HWTR
PO Box 47600
Olympia WA 98504-7600

PUBLIC COMMENT REQUESTED
We used several mailing lists. If you
receive a duplicate, please pass it on.

Example